

Appl. No. 10034,143
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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A connection system for use in coupling a multi-polar medical electrical lead to a source of electrical energy, ~~the medical electrical lead including at least three conductors~~, the connection system comprising:
 - a first connecting member coupled to a first conductor extending through the lead;
 - a second connecting member coupled to a second conductor extending through the lead;
 - a third connecting member coupled to a third conductor extending through the lead;
 - a first port shaped to selectably receive and to be electrically coupled to couple to at least two of the at least three conductors first connecting member, the second connecting member and the third connecting member;
 - a second port shaped to receive and to be electrically couple to another one of the at least three conductors coupled to the one of the first connecting member, the second connecting member and the third connecting member other than the two of the first connecting member, the second connecting member and the third connecting member; and
 - a connector to couple the first port and the second port to the source of energy.
2. (Original) The connection system of Claim 1, wherein each of the at least three conductors is electrically coupled to protruding connection members, and wherein the first port comprises a channel to receive connection members respectively associated with the at least two conductors.

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3. (Original) The connection system of Claim 2, wherein the second port is adapted to receive a connection member respectively associated with the other one of the at least three conductors.
4. (Original) The connection system of Claim 1, wherein the connector is bifurcated.
5. (Original) The connection system of Claim 1, wherein the connector includes an IS-1 industry-standard type connector.
6. (Original) The connection system of Claim 1, wherein the connection includes a DF-1 industry-standard type connector.
7. (Original) The connection system of Claim 1, wherein the connection system includes a body having a distal end adjacent the first and second ports, and further comprising a roll-back sleeve adjacent the distal end.
8. (Original) The connection system of Claim 1, wherein the second port is adapted to electrically couple to multiple other ones of the at least three conductors.
9. (Original) The connection system of Claim 1, wherein at visible indicator is provided to aid in selectably electrically coupling the first port to at least two of the at least three conductors.
10. (Original) The connection system of Claim 1, and further comprising at least one lockout member to prevent the first port from being electrically coupled to a predetermined combination of the at least three conductors.

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11. (Currently Amended) A connection system for use in coupling a multi-polar medical electrical lead to a source of electrical energy, ~~the medical electrical lead including at least three conductors each electrically coupled to a respective electrode,~~ the connection system comprising:

a plurality of electrodes;

a first connecting member coupled to a first conductor extending through the lead to a first electrode of the plurality of electrodes;

a second connecting member coupled to a second conductor extending through the lead to a second electrode of the plurality of electrodes;

a third connecting member coupled to a third conductor extending through the lead to a third electrode of the plurality of electrodes;

a first port shaped to selectably receive two of the first connecting member, the second connecting member and the third connecting member, and electrically couple at least two of the at least three conductors the corresponding ones of the first conductor, the second conductor and the third conductor to one another;

a second port shaped to receive the one of the first connecting member, the second connecting member and the third connecting member other than the two of the first connecting member, the second connecting member and the third connecting member and electrically couple to another one of the at least three conductors the one of the first conductor, the second conductor and the third conductor other than the corresponding ones of the first conductor, the second conductor and the third conductor; and

a connector to couple the first port and the second port to the source of electrical energy.

12. (Currently Amended) A medical system to provide electrical stimulation to living tissue, comprising:

a plurality of electrodes;

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a lead having ~~at least three~~ a plurality of conductors, each of the plurality of conductors being coupled to a respective electrode of the plurality of electrodes;

a first connecting member coupled to a first conductor of the plurality of
conductors extending through the lead to a first electrode of the plurality of
electrodes;

a second connecting member coupled to a second conductor of the
plurality of conductors extending through the lead to a second electrode of the
plurality of electrodes;

a third connecting member coupled to a third conductor of the plurality of
conductors extending through the lead to a third electrode of the plurality of
electrodes;

an energy source; and

~~a connection system to electrically couple ones of the at least three~~
~~conductors to the energy source, the connection system comprising:~~

a first port shaped to receive two of the first connecting member, the
second connecting member and the third connecting member, and to electrically
couple at least two selected ones of the at least three conductors the
corresponding ones of the first conductor, the second conductor and the third
conductor together in common;

a second port shaped to receive the one of the first connecting member,
the second connecting member and the third connecting member other than the
two of the first connecting member, the second connecting member and the third
connecting member and electrically couple to at least one other one of the at
least three conductors the one of the first conductor, the second conductor and
the third conductor other than the corresponding ones of the first conductor, the
second conductor and the third conductor; and

a connector to respectively electrically couple the first and second ports to
the energy source.

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13. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the energy source is a pulse generator.
14. (Original) The system of Claim 13, wherein the energy source is an implantable medical device (IMD).
15. (Original) The system of Claim 14, wherein the IMD is a cardioverter/defibrillator, and wherein the first port is adapted to be electrically coupled to receive cardioversion/defibrillation pulses from the IMD.
16. (Original) The system of Claim 15, wherein the IMD is a pacemaker cardioverter/defibrillator, and wherein the second port is adapted to be electrically coupled to receive relatively low-voltage stimulation energy from the IMD.
17. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the connector is bifurcated.
18. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the connector includes an IS-1 industry-standard type connector.
19. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the connection includes a DF-1 industry-standard type connector.
20. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein the connection system further includes at least one additional port, each to electrically couple to at least one additional one of the at ~~least three~~ plurality of conductors.

Please **ADD** the following new claims:

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21. (New) A connection system for use in coupling a multi-polar medical electrical lead to a source of electrical energy, the medical electrical lead including at least three conductors, the connection system comprising:
- a first port to selectably electrically couple to at least two of the at least three conductors;
 - a second port to electrically couple to another one of the at least three conductors; and
 - a connector to couple to the source of energy, wherein the connection system includes a body having a distal end adjacent the first and second ports, and further comprising a roll-back sleeve adjacent the distal end.
22. (New) A connection system for use in coupling a multi-polar medical electrical lead to a source of electrical energy, the medical electrical lead including at least three conductors, the connection system comprising:
- a first port to selectably electrically couple to at least two of the at least three conductors;
 - a second port to electrically couple to another one of the at least three conductors;
 - a connector to couple to the source of energy; and
 - at least one lockout member to prevent the first port from being electrically coupled to a predetermined combination of the at least three conductors.